

## **V. REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 15 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dijk (U.S. Patent No. 3,627,602). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dijk teaches a method of laminating at least two sheets. The steps include rendering at least one adjoining surface of the sheets adhesive then feeding the sheets into a passage leading between substantially parallel parts of the loading planes of two loading elements. At least one of the loading elements oscillates at a frequency between 0.1 and 1,000 c./s. in a direction substantially normal to the direction of movement of the sheets between the planes and locally compresses the sheets in overlapping sections between the loading planes of the loading elements. Thereafter, the sheets leave the loading elements as a laminate.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an adhesive tape applying method for placing an applicator member in contact with a surface of adhesive tape and applying the adhesive tape to a surface of a workpiece held by holding means. Claim 1 recites a step of applying the adhesive tape to the workpiece held by the holding means while holding the adhesive tape between the applicator member and the holding means and moving the applicator member and the holding means relative to each other and while vibrating the adhesive tape with the applicator member being in contact with the adhesive tape.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a step of applying the adhesive tape to the workpiece held by holding means while holding the adhesive tape between the applicator member and the holding means and moving the applicator member and the holding means relative to each other and while vibrating the adhesive tape. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to an adhesive tape applying apparatus for applying adhesive tape to a surface of a workpiece that includes

holding means, tape feed means, applying means and first vibration generating means. Claim 10 recites that the holding means receives and holds the workpiece in a stationary state and the tape feed means feeds the adhesive tape toward the workpiece held by the holding means. Claim 10 further recites that the applying means places an applicator member in contact with a surface of the adhesive tape and applies the adhesive tape to a surface of the workpiece and the first vibration generating means vibrates the applying means. Also, claim 10 recites that the adhesive tape is applied to the workpiece held by the holding means, while the adhesive tape is held between the applying means and the holding means moved relative to each other and while the adhesive tape is vibrated by the first vibration generating means.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 10 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the adhesive tape is applied to the work held by the holding means while the adhesive tape is held between the applying means and the holding means moved relative to each other and while the adhesive tape is vibrated by a first vibration generating means.

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the applied art.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 are amended to clarify the operation of the applicator member and holding means in time of applying the adhesive tape to the workpiece.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not at all disclose or suggest laminating two sheets while moving the upper and lower loading elements relative to each other. That is, the applied art relates to a method of continuously laminating two elongate sheets. The sheets cannot be laminated unless the two sheets are simultaneously fed in the same direction between the fixed upper and lower loading elements.

On the other hand, the method and apparatus according to the present invention apply the adhesive tape to the workpiece held by the holding means while moving the applicator member and holding means relative to each other. It is respectfully submitted that it is not possible to conceive the present invention from the apparatus disclosed in applied art. As noted above, there is a difference in construction between the applied art and the present invention. A combination of any of listed the references would not render the present invention obvious.

Claims 2, 3, and 6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 15 and 18-20 depend from claim 10 and include all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

For instance, claim 3 recites that vibration is applied to the holding means for receiving and holding the workpiece. Claim 6 recites that the applicator member is either an applicator roller or an applicator edge member. Claim 20 recites that the workpiece is a semiconductor wafer.

For at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-14, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Dijk. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 11-14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 10 and include all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

For instance, claim 4 recites a step of applying the adhesive tape to the workpiece while heating the adhesive tape. Claim 5 recites that the adhesive tape is heated by heating holding means. Claim 8 recites that the adhesive tape is in label form shaped substantially to a shape of the workpiece beforehand. Claim 9 recites that the workpiece is a semiconductor wafer.

Claim 11 recites that the heating means heats the holding means. Claim 12 recites cutting means for cutting the adhesive tape applied to the workpiece substantially to a shape of the workpiece. Claim 13 recites the first vibration generating means is electromagnetically operable. Claim 14 recites the first vibration generating means is constructed for rotating an eccentric weight. Claim 16 recites the second vibration generating means is electromagnetically operable. Claim 17 recites that the second vibration generating means is constructed for rotating an eccentric weight.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

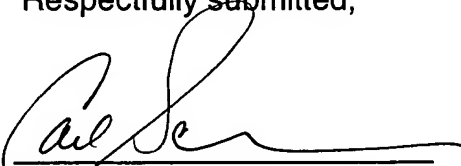
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):       Amendment Transmittal

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